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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

**Confirmation No. 5826**

Masayoshi NAKAMURA et al.

: Docket No. 2001\_1660A

Serial No. 09/986,671

: Group Art Unit 2836

Filed November 9, 2001

**THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED  
TO CHARGE ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE  
FEES FOR THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT  
ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975**

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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents,  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicant requests consideration of the references listed on attached form PTO-1449. A legible copy of each reference listed on the form PTO-1449 is enclosed.

1a.  This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

within three months of the filing date (or of entry into the National Stage) of the above-entitled application, or

before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits or the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of an RCE,

**and thus no certification and/or fee is required.**

1b.  This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted

after the events of above paragraph 1a and prior to the mailing date of a final Office Action or a Notice of Allowance or an action which otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and thus:

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- (1)  the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, or
- (2)  the fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.

1c.  This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

after the mailing date of a final Office Action or Notice of Allowance or action which otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and prior to payment of the issue fee, and thus:

**the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, and**

**the fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.**

2. It is hereby certified

a.  that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement, or

b.  that no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement.

3.  Consideration of the following list of additional information (including any copending or abandoned U.S. application, prior uses and/or sales, etc.) is requested.

4. For each non-English language reference listed on the attached form PTO-1449, reference is made to:

a.  a full or partial English language translation submitted herewith,

b.  a German Office Action (with English translation) submitted herewith,

- c.  the concise explanation contained in the specification of the present application at page,
- d.  the concise explanation set forth in the attached English language abstract,
- e.  the concise explanation for reference AJ is set forth below:

**German Patent No. 69325685 corresponds to European Patent No. 0585090.**

- 5.  A foreign patent office search report citing one or more of the references is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Masayoshi NAKAMURA et al.

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April 25, 2003